

**ABSTRACT:**  
                    

The optical signal receiving unit (10), which receives and processes an optical signal, can be programmed by the optical signal. The optical signal is detected by an optical sensor (20) and processed by a signal processor (40). The signal processor (40) has an operating mode, which is set by a programmable control unit (30). The control unit (30) is programmable by a program signal derived from the optical signal. In one embodiment the optical signal receiving unit (10) can be switched between two operating modes by a program switch signal provided at a program switch terminal (53). The apparatus (100) for reproducing information from an optical data carrier (101) comprises an optical signal receiving unit (10) according to the invention.

10

Fig. 1